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BOOK NOTICES.

WORTABET'S ARABIC-ENGLISH DICTIONARY.*

An Arabic-English dictionary has recently made its appearance from the Al-Muktataf press at Cairo, Egypt. It is edited by Prof. William Thomson Wortabet, Professor of English in the Egyptian Government School of Medicine and Pharmacy at Cairo. He was aided by his learned father, Rev. John Wortabet, M. D., of Beirut, Syria, and by Prof. Harvey Porter, B. A., of the Syrian Protestant College, at the same place. The work is dedicated by special permission to his Highness Mohammed Tewfik, Khedive of Egypt, "who has so highly promoted and patronized the cause of education among his people."

The book has 720 pages, is in a handy form, and the English type is especially good. The Arabic type is inferior to the German print, but is fairly clear, as much so as the Egyptian press has yet produced. The object of the work, as the editor suggests, "is to supply the want, long felt by many, of an accurate Arabic-English Dictionary which shall contain, within a moderate compass, the words most in use among Arabic classical writers, and which can be procured at a reasonable price."

A cursory glance at the compact volume before us would indicate that Prof. Wortabet has fairly attained the end in view. The dictionary is published at the moderate price of twelve shillings ($3.00), postage included, and can be had direct from the Muktataf Press at Cairo, orders on London preferred. Prof. Porter's part of the work was in revising and in making an exhaustive comparison between it and the famous dictionary of Mr. Lane's, which stops short at the letter *mim* (م). The result is a dictionary that contains the latest scholarship and which has every Arabic word naturally run across in reading classical Arabic writings. The editors have made use of the Arabic-English dictionary of Dr. Steingass and the Arabic-French dictionary of the Jesuit missionaries of Beirut, the books most frequently in the hands of practical students of the Arabic. The present volume bids fair to supersede all other works in this line used at present in Egypt and Syria. Dr. Wortabet, of Beirut, has contributed to the volume fifteen pages in English on Arabic grammar, which will be found useful especially to those who wish to get a summary view of the method of the Arabic grammarians. There is also an appendix of about twenty pages giving certain Arabic words peculiar to the Egyptian dialect.

The editor has followed the plan of the Arab lexicographers in giving "the past and present-future forms of the verb and the noun of action or noun of triliterals in full; for these forms are conventional, and can be learned only from

* ARABIC-ENGLISH DICTIONARY. By William Thomson Wortabet, Professor of English in the Egyptian Government School of Medicine and Pharmacy, with the collaboration of Rev. John Wortabet, M. D., and Professor Harvey Porter, B. A. Cairo: *Al-Muktataf Printing Office*, 1888. Price, 12s., postage included.

classical usage or from a reference to a dictionary. The triliteral measure or form of the verb is held by Arab grammarians to be the root of all other words, and it is marked by an asterisk to denote the origin of the derived words which follow. The same sign has been affixed to nouns that can be traced to no verb."

On the whole this dictionary is to be strongly recommended to students of the Arabic as at once the handiest, most convenient in arrangement and most reasonable in price of all the Arabic-English dictionaries in the market.

HENRY W. HULBERT.

A NEW ASSYRIOLOGICAL JOURNAL.

Under the title of *Beiträge zur Assyriologie und Vergleichenden semitischen Sprachwissenschaft*,* a new publication, edited by Professors Friedrich Delitzsch and Paul Haupt, appears, which promises to be an important help to students of Assyrian and kindred branches of investigation. While not exactly of the nature of periodical literature, it will gather up and, at more or less regular intervals, present those important discussions and investigations along these lines which for one reason or another are not to be included in the *Assyriologische Bibliothek*. The table of contents of the first Heft is here given:

1. Paul Haupt, Das Nominalpräfix *na* im Assyrischen. 2. Franz Praetorius, Zur äthiopischen Grammatik und Etymologie. 3. Paul Haupt, Die zwölfte Tafel des babylonischen Nimrod-Epos (mit 9 Tafeln). 4. Joh. Flemming, Der literarische Nachlass G. F. Grotefends (mit Portrait). 5. Paul Haupt, Ergebnisse einer neuen Collation der Izdubar-Legenden. 6. Eb. Nestle, Die Verba mediae ʾ im Syrischen. 7. Paul Haupt, Zur assyrischen Nominallehre. 8. Georg Steindorff, Die ägyptischen Namen in den Keilschrifttexten. 9. Paul Haupt, Die semitischen Sprachlaute und ihre Umschrift. 10. Friedrich Delitzsch, Assyrische Briefe. 11. Paul Haupt, Über die Halbvocale $\overset{\frown}{u}$ und $\overset{\frown}{i}$. 12. Friedrich Delitzsch, Der Cylinder Sin-idinnam's (mit Abbildung in Lichtdruck).

* The price will vary with the size, 1 mark for each form of sixteen pages. *J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung*, Leipzig.